



May 12, 2003
National Women's Check-Up Day

Facts & Figures About Women's Health

Women & Heart Disease...

- ❖ Heart disease is the number one killer of American women. More women die of heart disease each year than men.
- ❖ One in three American women dies of heart disease. Women who recover from a heart attack are more likely to have a stroke or to have another heart attack than are men. In fact, 38 percent of women die within a year following a heart attack compared to 25 percent of men.
- ❖ Heart disease takes the lives of more women in the United States than stroke, breast cancer, ovarian or uterine cancer, and HIV combined.
- ❖ Stroke is the third leading cause of death for American women. Women are more likely than men to die from a stroke. Taken together, heart disease and stroke kill nearly twice as many American women as do all types of cancer combined.

Women & Cancer...

- ❖ Cancer is the second leading killer of American women.
- ❖ Since 1987, lung cancer has been the top cancer killer among American women, with an estimated 68,200 deaths in women expected in 2003. About 90% of all lung cancer deaths among U.S. women smokers are attributable to smoking.
- ❖ Breast cancer is the second leading cancer killer among women, with an estimated 39,800 deaths in women expected in 2003. Although lung cancer kills more women each year than breast cancer does, there are more new cases of breast cancer every year than lung cancer.
- ❖ Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer deaths in American women. An estimated 74,700 new cases of colorectal cancer in women and 28,800 deaths in women are expected in 2003.

Women & Diabetes...

- ❖ Diabetes mellitus is the fifth leading cause of death in women.
- ❖ An estimated 17 million Americans have diabetes. Only 11.1 million cases are diagnosed, 9.1 million women have diabetes, and about a third don't know it.





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Women & Obesity...

- ❖ 61% of adults in the United States were overweight or obese (BMI > 25) in 1999. In women, overweight and obesity are higher among members of racial and ethnic minority populations than in non-Hispanic white women. Overweight and obesity are associated with heart disease, certain types of cancer, type 2 diabetes, stroke, arthritis, breathing problems, and psychological disorders, such as depression.
- ❖ 300,000 deaths each year in the United States are associated with obesity.

Women & Tobacco...

- ❖ About 23 million women smoke, which increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, cancers, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), low bone density, and reproductive health problems.
- ❖ Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is a cause of lung cancer and coronary heart disease among women who are lifetime nonsmokers.

Women & Asthma...

- ❖ Each year nearly 500,000 Americans are hospitalized and more than 5,000 die from asthma. Adult women are far more likely than men to have asthma, and are also more likely to be hospitalized and die from asthma.

Women & HIV/STDs...

- ❖ Approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States, 30 percent of them among women. African-American women account for 64 percent of new HIV infections among women.
- ❖ Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States. It causes an estimated 3 million infections annually. .
- ❖ Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because three quarters of infected women have no symptoms.

